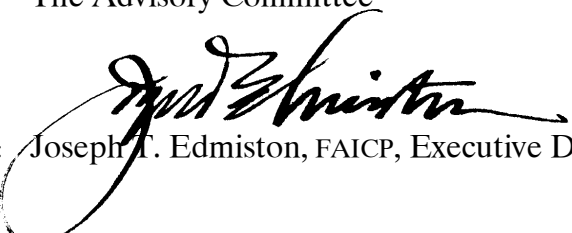


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 18, 2006

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of approximately 58 acres in a Topanga Canyon small lot subdivision adjacent to Topanga State Park, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds in the amount of \$100,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of approximately 58 acres in a Topanga Canyon small lot subdivision adjacent to Topanga State Park.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: State Parks had been working to acquire the subject 58 acres located on the western flank of Topanga State Park from Los Angeles County for almost five years. The property creates a significant expansion of the western boundary of the Park. The dominant vegetation cover is chaparral but with substantial riparian vegetation (approximately 2,000 feet) along two blueline tributaries of Topanga Creek. Through a Conservancy grant, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is in the process of acquiring approximately 70 acres of additional County surplus property that abut the subject 58 acres.

The Conservancy twice took action (January 27, 2003 resolution number 03-01 and November 24, 2003 resolution number 03-2001) waiving its first right of refusal on the subject surplus government 58 acres pursuant to Section 33207 of the Public Resources Code. However, State departments have blocked State Parks from making the acquisition primarily because of a trend not to absorb maintenance obligations on new property. Los Angeles County approached both the Conservancy and the MRCA about completing this long pending deal.

The MRCA has submitted the attached grant application to the Conservancy for Proposition 50 funding in the sum of \$100,000.00 to acquire these 58 acres in Topanga Canyon. The total price for the land is \$100,000 which is the equivalent of the price offered to State Parks. The MRCA would hold title to the subject acreage until a time that State Parks requests transfer of the 58 acres. Based on 2003 aerial photography brushing will be required around one house at the end of Rochemont.